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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



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The Honorable Jim Kolbe
Chairman
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Appropriations Committee
HB-28, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Appropriations Committee
HB-28, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kolbe and Ranking Member Lowey:

I am respectfully requesting \$9 million for rural water and sanitation in east Africa in the FY2005 Foreign Operations bill.

The United States is committed to halting the rapid spread of HIV in Africa and treating those who are currently infected. Clean water is an essential ingredient in preventing the spread of many illnesses and treating of those suffering with AIDS. Without it, weakened immune systems quickly fall victim to water-borne microbes and pathogens. Over 300 million people in Africa still do not have access to a safe water supply and adequate sanitation, and almost half of all Africans suffer from water and sanitation-related diseases.

Unfortunately, USAID is currently directing few resources to improve the water situation, especially in rural areas of east Africa. Building basic facilities for water provision and sanitation will make a profound difference in areas where clean water is lacking. For the small expense of drilling a well and ensuring its maintenance, local people will enjoy a healthier, longer life. It will also free the labor of those who must travel miles for clean water, usually women and children. By appropriating this money through U.S. non-profit organizations, Congress will minimize losses due to corruption and waste, magnify the good works and charity of the United States and its citizens, and leverage additional funds through the private sector. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Thank you!

JAC:ns

Sincerely,

John Culberson
Member of Congress